

From: David E Provencher
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/16/02 8:46am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

95 Morningside Drive
Newport Center, VT 05857-9428

January 15, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
U.S. Department of Justice
Washington, D.C. 20530-0001

Dear Attorney General Ashcroft:

I am a proponent of free enterprise and I believe that under the terms of the recent antitrust settlement between Microsoft and the U.S. department of Justice, Microsoft has not gotten off easy. In fact, their rights are being violated in some ways. Nevertheless, I support the settlement because I think that all parties involved will be better off without further litigation.

First off, Microsoft is being restricted from entering into third party agreements pertaining to exclusive distribution. This term is ridiculous and biased. Most companies, including some like Coca-Cola, rely on these types of agreements to gain and maintain market share. To restrict companies from this form of business is to hinder their chances for survival. Second, Microsoft will be forced to give up technological codes and data, which will allow competitors to configure and create products that, can be prompted within Windows or are compatible with Windows software. This term alone constitutes a violation of Microsoft's intellectual property rights.

I urge your office to finalize this settlement and look out for the American public. I hope the terms of settlement ultimately turn out to be in best interest of the American IT sector and American public. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

David Provencher

